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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/720,384	12/21/2000	Saverio Carl Falco	BB-1167-B	2363
23906	7590	10/21/2003	EXAMINER	
E I DU PONT DE NEMOURS AND COMPANY LEGAL PATENT RECORDS CENTER BARLEY MILL PLAZA 25/1128 4417 LANCASTER PIKE WILMINGTON, DE 19805			BUI, PHUONG T	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1638	

DATE MAILED: 10/21/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/720,384

Applicant(s)

FALCO ET AL.

Examiner

Phuong T. Bui

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 12-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 12-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 07032003
- 4) ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) 0930 2003
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

Restriction election

1. The Office acknowledges the receipt of Applicant's amendment filed July 3, 2003.

Claims 12-17 are pending and are examined in the instant application. This action is made FINAL. Any previous rejections not set forth below have been withdrawn.

2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. An initialed and dated copy of Applicant's IDS form 1449 (filed July 3, 2003) is attached to the instant Office action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112, first paragraph

4. Claims 12-19 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph. Specifically, since the claimed invention is not supported by either an "APS kinase" asserted utility or a well established utility for the reasons set forth above, one skilled in the art clearly would not know how to use the claimed invention.

5. Claims 12-17 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. This is a written description rejection. This rejection is maintained for reasons of record.

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Applicant traverses, stating primarily that SEQ ID NO:3 encodes a complete protein and is not a partial protein sequence. However, Applicant's remarks filed July 3, 2003 appear to be internally inconsistent. On page 5 of Applicant's Remarks, Applicant stated "there is an ATG codon at position 137 of SEQ ID NO:4 although Applicants do not believe this to be a start methionine". On page 7, Applicant stated "Applicants believe SEQ ID NO:3 to contain a single open reading frame of 1028 bp (from 2-1030) encoding a functionally complete protein of 343 amino acids (SEQ ID NO:4)". In a telephone interview on September 30, 2003, Applicant stated that Applicant is uncertain whether SEQ ID NO:3 encodes a complete protein. However, Applicant believes SEQ ID NO:3 encodes a partial transit peptide and a full mature APS kinase.

After careful consideration of Applicant's traversal and evidence filed July 3, 2003, and the telephonic interview of September 30, 2003, the Office is maintaining the written description rejection for the following reasons. Since it is unclear whether SEQ ID NO:4 contains the full APS kinase protein, and the "comprising" language in the claims encompass the full protein, the current claims are not in compliance with the written description requirement. There is no evidence that Applicant is in possession of the complete APS kinase protein as claimed. However, the Office believes that SEQ ID NO:4 has APS kinase activity based upon the submitted references and sequence alignment data filed July 3, 2003.

Furthermore, the claims failed to comply with the written description requirements because, as stated in the previous Office action, the "% sequence identity" language in the claims encompass mutants, allelic variants and APS kinases from other sources which Applicant does not disclose or is in possession of at the time of filing. One skilled in the art would not be able to

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visualize or recognize the identity of other APS kinase members based upon the single disclosure of SEQ ID NO:3 isolated from *Zea mays*.

Remarks

6. No claim is allowed. SEQ ID NO:3 and a nucleotide sequence encoding SEQ ID NO:4 are free of the prior art.

7. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

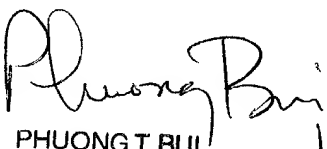
8. Papers relating to this application may be submitted to Technology Sector 1 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Crystal Mall 1, Art Unit 1638, using fax number (703) 308-4242. All Technology Sector 1 fax machines are available to receive transmissions 24 hrs/day, 7 days/wk. Please note that the faxing of such papers must conform with the Notice published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30, (November 15, 1989).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phuong Bui whose telephone number is (703) 305-1996.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Amy Nelson, can be reached at (703) 306-3218.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

Phuong Bui
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1638
October 6, 2003


PHUONG T. BUI
PRIMARY EXAMINER 10/6/03